Consumption of Electricity in North Bihar

900. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per capita consumption of electricity in North Bihar;

(b) whether it is comparable with other backward areas of the country; and

(c) if not the remedial action proposed, if any, to augment the power supply in North Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) The per capita consumption of electricity in North Bihar in 1983-84 was 18.42 units.

(b) It is comparable with some of the States in North-Eastern Region. For example 12.77 units in Manipur and 20.60 units in Tripura in the same year.

(c) A number of measures are being undertaken to improve power supply position in Bihar which include renovation and modernisation of thermal power stations and accelerating the commissioning of new generating capacity.

Illiteracy in the Country

901. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage of illiterates in the country in 1950;

(b) the latest percentage of illiterates in the country; and

(c) the present policy of Government to remove illiteracy and when the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) According to 1951 census, the percentage of illiterates to the total population in the country was 83.33.

(b) According to 1981 census, the percentage of illiterates to the total population was 63.77 excluding Assam, where the census could not be held.

(c) Government have accorded high priority to the Adult Education Programme by including it in the Minimum Needs Programme of the Sixth Five Year Plan and in the New 20-Point Programme. The following strategies have been adopted:—

—to cover districts with literacy rate below national level; priority to the target group of women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of the society;

—to enlist larger participation of students in the Adult Education Programme;

—to provide grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations in the field of adult education;

—to strengthen post-literacy programme to avoid relapse into illiteracy of the neo-literates; and

—to utilize the official and electronic media and to use folk media for motivational purposes.

The Sixth Plan document envisages the removal of illiteracy in the age group 15-35 by 1990.

Use of Household Detergents— A Health Hazard

902. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow has revealed that the use of household detergents can cause skin cancer and lead to severe vision impairment;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and